

So my bill provides, as I say, a mechanism for forgiveness or elimination of those taxes. Who suffers if that is done? John DeCamp suffers. He owns a house in Lincoln along with everybody else who owns a house in Lincoln. In other words, the property taxpayers of Lincoln and Lancaster County are the ultimate sufferers. They're in effect participating to the tune of 2 or 3 million dollars in helping the Commonwealth situation. Is this right? Is it good? Is it proper? Is it fair? I don't know. I guess I'm looking at the entire picture and the entire picture is this is a thorny issue and I'm not sure there is any fairness, if you want to use that absolute term, for anybody. I'm not sure the Commonwealth depositors have been "treated fair". I'm not sure the state has been treated fair. I'm not sure Paul Amen got treated fair. I am saying if you're going to get that issue settled you'd better do it in some way that you get some maximum amount of benefit from the dollars you are going to put in. Now we did do a major thing for Lincoln and Lancaster County this year. We gave them the flexibility to raise additional money from the sales tax, the sales tax, and that will raise additional money and who pays a significant portion of the sales tax in Lincoln and Lancaster County? You do, as does every other out of state individual. Probably as much or more than any city in this state, the sales tax in Lincoln comes from outsiders. That's not to say all of it or any such thing, but as a percentage outsiders pay and will pay the sales tax that goes directly for the Lincoln city. We pay it because of the, what, 30 or 40,000 students from out of state who are here. We pay it because of the legislative seat of government and all of state government here and the people that come in for that. So "out-of-staters" would be, in a very real sense, participating with the new sales tax in paying taxes to operate the City of Lincoln and in helping, in a sense, pick up this Commonwealth property tax loss. Now my amendment and that is what I want to bring up next. My amendment tries to overcome the constitutional hurdle by making it optional. I repeat, it makes it optional. It leaves it up to 85 percent of the Commonwealth depositors whether they want to do this and whether they want to work as part of their settlement transfer of this property to the State of Nebraska and then getting the property back without the taxes. So, in effect, you'd be turning over to the Commonwealth depositors the decision as to whether they wanted to attempt with 85 percent of them to get the taxes eliminated. So it would be pitting, in a sense, Lincolnit